

Washington – Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR-03), founder and co-chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus, released the following statement on NPR and funding for public broadcasting:

“The comments made by Ron Schiller, a fundraiser at NPR, were foolish and indefensible. They don’t reflect in any way the opinions of the many dedicated journalists who work at NPR. Yet with 89 percent of federal public broadcasting dollars going directly to local stations, the fact of the matter is that NPR is not the most important part of the public broadcasting debate.

“Every month, more than 170 million Americans turn to their local public broadcasting stations for free, high-quality programs that focus on the issues most important to them – what’s happening in their community. Not only do our local public broadcasting stations provide us with valuable information, but they also directly support 21,000 jobs in hundreds of communities across America. These jobs would be at risk if small stations that rely on federal funding were forced to close their doors.

“As traditional news outlets lay off reporters and offer less coverage of important topics, public broadcasting is filling the gap, bringing critical news and information to communities across the country. What’s more, public broadcasting stations are the only source of free programming that educates our children rather than the many commercial stations simply trying to sell them products. Our communities, our workers and our children would be the true victims of any cuts to funding for public broadcasting.

“According to a [poll](#) that came out just last week, Americans rank investment in public broadcasting second only to funding for our troops as the second best use of taxpayer dollars. Public broadcasting also remains the most trusted institution in the media. Now is not the time to threaten this American treasure with elimination.”